

MINUTES

**CITY OF WARR ACRES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY
JUNE 2, 2009
6:00 P.M.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Declaration of a quorum present was given.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mayor Patrick Woolley
Vice-Mayor Nancy Olson
Councilman Phil Owens (arrived at 6:23 p.m.)
Councilman David Dirkschneider (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Councilman Mike Gossman
Councilman Christian Portwood
Councilman Dean Johnson
Councilwoman Cathy Maxey
Councilman Doug Davis

Item 4 was heard before item 2.

Attorney Jernigan presented a check to the City Clerk in the amount of \$8,000. This money had been held in escrow after the sale of the car dealership for any cost that might have come up after the sale. He recommended placing the money back in the Economic Development Trust.

2. Review, discussion and possible action on the budget for the time period starting July 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009.

The Mayor stating that the Clerk had included some very helpful information to help the new members better understand the budget. The Mayor took the council through the budget explaining all the different aspects of the budget and asking them if they had any questions. He stated that as they proceed through the budget they will see that he has added staffing in the Street department and is replacing the Sewer Supervisor with two entry level employees. He said that he and PWD Turman have some ideas about changing shifts, using people in all departments and others ideas to try and cut back on the overtime. He said that overtime was budgeted at a realistic number instead of just \$1,000 per department, and they

plan on not needing it but have it there just in case. He told them that is has also budgeted \$400,000 toward street repairs from the CIP budget. He said they may not get everything done in the next six months but that he at least has it budgeted and if they need to outsource some of the work they will. He told them that he has placed money in an emergency account and money in a reserve for capital replacement account and would like to see those amounts grow in the next budget. He proceeded on through the budget and explained the Public Safety Tax revenue and expenses. Councilman Portwood asked if the extra police and fire employees would always be paid from here and he was told that they would. Councilman Gossman stated that he thought that the city would be getting rid of two fire trucks when the new one arrived. Chief Carter stated that he would have to keep one of them for the city to keep the ISO rating of five. This rate is what determines the cost of house insurance. Moving on to the Street department budget Councilman Gossman asked if there were still temps being used. The Mayor stated that there were and that the new employees would be cross trained in all departments. He also stated that they would be working up a list of streets that need repairs and then they will begin prioritizing. The council will bring in their list of worst streets in their wards. Councilman Portwood asked about a Mechanic. The Mayor stated that there were issues that needed to be worked out first and they might try and budget one in the next budget. Councilman Gossman asked if this budget had pay raises included in it. The Mayor stated that it has the Henley pay plan numbers included in the salaries shown. When they reached the Capital Building department the Mayor stated that more money had been budgeted for replacement of a portion of the sewer line. Councilman Gossman stated that the work could be done by the city employees. Councilman Portwood questioned why the city owns the building. He was told that the building was originally purchased to use as City Hall. When they got to the Community Center budget Councilman Gossman stated that the Tribune article called the Center by the correct name and said he was glad to see the change.

The council moved on to the special fund budgets and went through them one by one. In the CIP budget there was a request for a Street Sweeper and Councilman Gossman stated that he thought that it should be purchased with the EPA money. Clerk Ramirez stated that they could split the cost between funds. The Mayor stated that they could make any changes that the council would like to see changed. Councilman Gossman stated that he would like to see the city purchase a used dumpster shuttle instead of a new one. Councilman Portwood asked if they would be approving the budget tonight. The Mayor stated that the budget would be approved at the public hearing meeting on June 15th. Councilman Dirkschneider recommended the possibility of sharing Bethany's street sweeper. The Mayor stated that they might be able to pay Bethany to use theirs or pay them to clean our streets. Councilwoman Olson asked what a commercial laundry extractor was. Chief Carter told the council that currently they lay the bunker gear out on the floor and scrub it with brushes and take them to be cleaned. He stated that under new regulations the bunker gear must be cleaned more often and better. After much discussion on the items requested from CIP the council

recommended that the 1000 ft of hose, cpr training aids, commercial laundry extractor and storm siren monitor & encoder should be moved to the Public Safety Tax fund. The also opted to remove the street sweeper and the bucket truck from the proposed list. The Mayor told the council that currently they are working on applications for stimulus money for energy efficiency. He said that if approved the money appropriated for Community Center upgrades would not be spent.

Under the Public Works Authority the Mayor told the council that the two new people will know exactly what will be expected of them and what licenses they must obtain. Councilman Gossman stated that there are a lot of people losing their jobs or taking pay cuts and now would not be a good time to give the employees raises. The Mayor stated that they could implement the Henley plan now and if need be they could freeze the wages later. Councilwoman Maxey stated that maybe they should freeze the wages now and look at it again in the next budget. Councilman Gossman stated that they should not implement the plan now. Councilman Portwood stated that this could not be a money issue they had already gone through the entire budget and the numbers are included in there. Councilman Gossman stated that the Unions will break the city. Councilwoman Olson stated that times are hard on everyone and it is not fair. The Mayor asked the council if they were going to leave them in or take them out. Councilwoman Maxey stated they could move them into the plan and then freeze them in the next budget. The Mayor stated that he would not freeze the wages until after everyone moved up. Councilman Dirkschneider said the money is in the budget and they should take care of the employees. They work harder when they are happy and he would rather keep the employees we have. He said they need to weigh the pros and cons. Councilman Johnson said that they should implement it as planned. Councilman Dirkschneider said that they need to leave it as is and Councilman Johnson agreed. The Mayor said that they can freeze them as July 1, 2010 if they need to. Councilman Portwood asked if once the budget is approved if then everything could be spent. He was told that on the large items they will still know before the purchase can be made. The Mayor stated that he will be overseeing the budget monthly.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve using the money held in escrow with OMAG, \$95,341.46, to reduce the renewal amount for 2009-2010 Workers' Comp.

Motion by Olson, second by Johnson to approve using the escrow amount of \$95,341.46 to reduce the renewal rate for 2009-2010. Poll vote: Johnson, yea; Dirkschneider, yea; Gossman, yea; Maxey, yea; Davis, yea; Portwood, yea; Olson, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item 4 was heard before item 2.

4. Discussion and possible action on a change order on the flow metering project to add two additional meters for 8 weeks at the cost of \$4880.

Engineer Barrett stated the work has begun and the contractor is recommending an additional two meters that will monitor the flow coming in from Bethany. That way they can separate out what is coming from Bethany and what is actually Warr Acres. He said the cost will be \$5,040, he stated that in the rush to get the item on the agenda he had miscalculated the cost. He said that he recommended approval of the change order. The contractor will be in town this week and will install them and then will be back every two weeks to read the meters.

Motion by Johnson, second by Gossman to approve the change order. Poll vote: Johnson, yea; Dirkschneider, yea; Gossman, yea; Maxey, yea; Davis, yea; Portwood, yea; Olson, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

5. Adjournment.

Motion by Maxey, second by Davis to adjourn. Poll vote: Johnson, yea; Dirkschneider, yea; Gossman, yea; Maxey, yea; Davis, yea; Portwood, yea; Olson, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McDowell-Ramirez
City Clerk